

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
Jon J. Charles,)	SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate 208859)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 9, 2007. On November 27, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent notice to Jon J. Charles of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 208859 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Charles received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature and requested a hearing in writing on December 12, 2006. Mr. Charles subsequently agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to accept a period of suspension of his certificate. After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Charles' certificate under the agreed-upon terms as outlined in this Consent Order of Suspension.

Jon J.
Charles
208859

Initial Here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Charles previously held a Kentucky certificate and taught in that State during the 2000-01 school year. The Kentucky Professional Standards Board suspended Mr. Charles' certificate on March 12, 2002, for providing alcohol to female students in his home. On January 11, 2005, the State Board suspended Mr. Charles' South Carolina certificate through June 8, 2005, based on the Kentucky suspension as well as Mr. Charles' failure to disclose on his application for employment with Dorchester County School District Two (District) that he had resigned from his employment in Kentucky in lieu of being terminated.

In 2002, Mr. Charles obtained a South Carolina certificate and began teaching at Fort Dorchester High School. The District terminated Mr. Charles' employment once it learned of the Kentucky suspension. The District reemployed Mr. Charles for the 2005-06 school year, following the reinstatement of his South Carolina certificate. Mr. Charles resigned from that employment on October 19, 2006, following his admission that he had shown pictures with sexually suggestive content to students on his school computer and that he had used inappropriate language in talking to a female student about her boyfriend.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2006). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board concludes that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Jon J. Charles for a period of ten months, commencing retroactively on October 19, 2006, through August 18, 2007, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. If Mr. Charles wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the suspension period, he must appear before the State Board for a character and fitness review.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ John E. Tindal

John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 9, 2007

I, Jon J. Charles, S.C. Educator Certificate 208859, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on January 9, 2007.

/S/ Jon J. Charles
Jon J. Charles

12/29/06
Date